

July 28, 2023



## FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



*The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.*

*Brent Bailey*

## Scenes from the Neshoba County Fair – Mississippi's Giant House Party

There are few things as unique as the Neshoba County Fair. It is the oldest remaining campground Fair in the United States having its humble beginnings in 1889 as a picnic where farm animals, farm produce and women's handiwork were displayed. After two successful years of picnics, the fair was organized in 1891 when officers and a board of directors were elected.

Harness and running horse races have been held since 1894. The red clay, half-mile race track oval was constructed in 1914 and remains in use today. The oak trees on Founders Square were planted in 1898. The Pavilion on Founders Square was constructed in 1914 with only minor work having been done since original construction. While it was refurbished in 2003, no architectural or cosmetic changes were made. The Exhibit Hall was built in 1924 with expansions and modifications since.

There are 597 individually owned cabins on the grounds of the Fair. While the cabins come in all shapes, sizes, colors and configurations, the bottom floor is generally the kitchen, eating and gathering area, with sleeping areas on the top floors. But the front and back porches are where most of your time is spent at the Fair. There are also nearly 600 camper/RV spots adjacent to the Fair grounds.



The Fair turned 134 years old this year and continues to welcome family and friends back to Neshoba County. In addition to the many activities (concerts, dancing, harness and horse racing, antique car show, rodeo, livestock shows, fruit and vegetable show, pageant, memorial to veterans, public singing, fireworks, etc.) that take place across the eight days of the Fair, the two to three days of political speaking at the Fair always draws a crowd and helps set the tone for the pending elections.

According to the historical marker at the Founders Square Pavilion, "Every major political figure in Mississippi since 1914 has spoke here, as well as nationally prominent politicians including candidates for U.S. President."





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*Continued...*

All state, district and local candidates or elected officials have spoken at Mississippi's most revered political speaking stump. Ronald Reagan kicked off his presidential campaign at the Neshoba County Fair in 1980. John Glenn (1983) and Michael Dukakis (1988) also spoke at the Fair.

This year marks the fifth time that I have been invited to stand behind the podium and speak at the Neshoba County Fair. It is truly an honor to speak at the place where so many great leaders have shared their message with Fair attendees. While I admit it is not always easy to get the crowd excited and pumped up over utility regulatory matters, it does provide me and my office an opportunity to update attendees on some of our recent accomplishments and goals going forward. Please check out the [video of my speech](#) from this year's Fair, provided by the *Magnolia Tribune*. And for a trip down memory lane, check out our [video from July 2020](#) when the Neshoba County Fair was canceled due to COVID concerns.

## *Snaps from the Fair*





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CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE







## Mississippi Energy News Briefs

### **Nissan Has Big Plans for Electric Vehicle (EV) Manufacturing in Canton, MS**

Nissan was an early pioneer in the EV industry when it introduced its Leaf in 2010. The company, however, has said it will discontinue the Leaf in the next few years and [replace it with a new vehicle in 2026](#). Nissan launched its Ariya Crossover/SUV last year to begin its ramp up of EV production. The company's Infiniti luxury division has a new concept electric vehicle that it expects to be ready to sell to the public in 2026. **The refreshed Infiniti EV sedan will be produced at Nissan's Canton, Miss., factory, which will become the center of Nissan's North American electric vehicle production.**



Nissan is retooling its Canton assembly plant over the next few years with a \$500 million investment to get it ready to produce the Infiniti EV in 2025 and two new all-electric Nissan sedans in 2026. The company's plan is to also produce two EV crossovers at the plant in 2027 and 2028. Nissan plans for the Canton facility to become Nissan's EV manufacturing and technology center going forward. The Mississippi plant will have a capacity for 410,000 vehicles annually.

### **Utility-Scale Wind Farm Moving Forward in Tunica**

With the backing of Amazon, AES is [moving forward with the development](#) of the first utility-scale wind farm in Mississippi. The Tunica Wind Project will have a capacity of 184.5 MW and will utilize 41 advanced technology wind turbines. While located in the Mississippi Delta, the project will allow the agricultural land surrounding the wind turbines to be continued to be utilized for the production of corn, soybeans, cotton, rice and more.

Amazon is now backing six renewable energy projects in Mississippi, including five solar farms. Once fully operational, the six projects are expected to generate more than 1,850 gigawatt-hours (GWH) of clean energy, the equivalent amount of electricity needed to power 174,600 U.S. homes each year. The MPSC announced the approval of the project at a ceremony with local and county officials in Tunica County on June 9, 2021. (photo above right)










### **D.C. Appeals Court Orders FERC to Reconsider Approval of Regional Energy Trading System**

Earlier this month, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit [vacated](#) transmission rules that allow the functioning of the Southeast Energy Exchange Market (SEEM), a trading platform for utility companies such as Southern Co. (including Mississippi Power Co.), Dominion Energy, and Duke Energy across the Southeast. The exchange has 23 members in 12 states. The court said FERC's approval of the SEEM charter was "inconsistent" with the agency's open access requirements in its Order 888 that aim to ensure transmission owners offer non-discriminatory access to their systems. The court instructed FERC to explain its finding that SEEM is not required to allow open membership and offer transmission service and access to non-members.



## Last Week at the MPSC

-  **Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouchWireless** filed its [Notice](#) that its Lifeline Legacy Plan will expire effective September 26, 2023. **enTouchWireless** subscribers on the Lifeline Legacy Plan will be moved to the 1000 Bundled Voice FREE Plan. Subscribers need not do anything for the change to maintain their Lifeline Benefit with the 1000 Bundled Voice FREE Plan.
-  **Boomerang Wireless, LLC** also filed its [Supplemental Exhibit "E"](#) in regard to its Application Seeking Partial Relinquishment of Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier on a Wireless Basis (Low-Income Only) in a Certain Service Area Previously Served by Underlying Carrier Verizon Wireless and Removal of **AT&T Mobility** as an Underlying Carrier.
-  An individual resident of **Madison County** filed a [Motion to Intervene](#) and Objection to Application in regard to the Application of **West Madison Utility District** for a Supplemental Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to Operate and Maintain a Water System in a Specified Area in **Madison County**.
-  **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** made its Post-Order [Water](#) and [Sewer](#) Compliance Filings including a [Compliance Letter](#) to the **Commission**, exhibits, and a [Summary Detailed Facility Construction Plan](#) in accordance with the reporting requirements set forth by the **Commission**. Since the completion of the closing on the assets associated with the systems approved for sale and transfer by the **Commission**, **Great River** has implemented a utility asset management program, engaged qualified certified operations personnel, launched a multi-platform billing and customer service program, and increased service reliability and customer service in each service area now served by **Great River**. For each of the wastewater systems that have significant investment needs, **Great River** has obtained a [compliance letter](#) from the **Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)** that includes a schedule that they will use to bring each wastewater system into compliance and improve system reliability and safety.
-  **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) of its Filing of Regulatory Tax Recovery (RTR) Clause Assessments beginning October 2023. This filing is its 2023 RTR Filing of information related to the calculation of its Regulatory Tax Recovery Clause assessments pursuant to Rate Schedule "RTR-2," which assessments are applicable to all of the **Mississippi Power Company's** electric service rate except for lighting service rate schedules. Based upon this assessment, the Regulatory Tax Recovery Clause assessments to be applied to all electric service rate schedules of Mississippi Power Company's customers are: \$0.29 per month for Residential; \$1.15 per month for Small Commercial/Industrial; and \$395.31 for Large Commercial/Industrial.
-  **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Notice](#) of Special Contract Between **Mississippi Power Company** and **Leaf River Energy Center, LLC**. **Mississippi Power Company** has agreed, subject to **Commission** approval, to provide electric service to Leaf River at certain facilities located in **Jasper County**, Mississippi pursuant to an electric service contract effective May 5, 2023. The Special Contract contains confidential and proprietary commercial information; therefore, it is being furnished to the **Commission** confidentially. **Leaf River Energy, LLC** is a high-deliverability natural gas storage hub strategically located in Southeastern Mississippi. The company saw a need to enhance flexibility and reliability on the natural gas pipeline that interconnects with seven other pipeline companies, so the decision was made to install a booster pumping station strategically located downstream on their existing pipeline. They were able to find a 4.5-acre site within **Mississippi Power's** footprint along the current pipeline route where they will invest approximately \$31 million.
-  **Intrado Safety Communications, Inc.** filed its [Notice](#) of Pro Forma Internal Reorganization that inserted three new holding companies into the ownership structure of its parent company.





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- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Comments](#) on **Southern Spirit Transmission, LLC's** Petition for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Proposed Southern Transmission Project and recommends revisions to Southern Spirit Transmission, LLC's proposed scheduling order, providing additional time for discovery and by extension the activity that follows discovery.

## CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



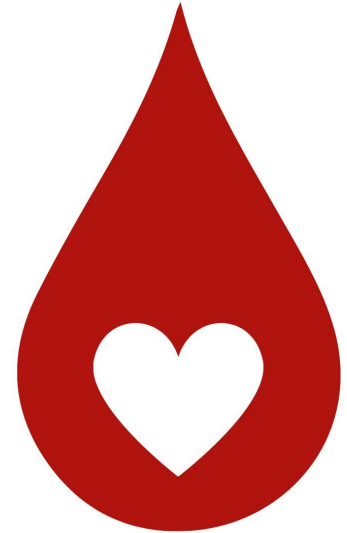
*The action was high last night at the Keath Killebrew Memorial Rodeo Sponsors Dinner and Auction to benefit the Killebrew Ag Foundation. Make plans to attend the rodeo and Mississippi Ag and Outdoor Expo at the Mississippi Coliseum this weekend! Let's rodeo!!!*



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **47** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	39
Telecommunications	6
Water/Sewer	2

**BLOOD DRIVE  
ON 811 DAY**



**SAVE A LIFE GIVE BLOOD!**

It takes less than 1 hour to donate blood & make a difference. Food, door prizes & gift cards will be provided by our sponsors.

**Where: MS 811 Inc  
200 Country Place Pkwy,  
Pearl, MS**



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